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# Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INRE-00 A-01 SY-04 SCCT-02 AID-20

DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 /131 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1235

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SU
SUBJ: KHARTOUM ASSASSINATIONS--SUPERIOR COURT TRIAL

REF: KHARTOUM 1221 AND 1097

1. SUMMARY: SUPERIOR COURT TRIAL OF BSO ASSASSINS BEGAN AS EXPECTED JUNE 1 WITH STRAIGHT-FORWARD SESSION WHICH HELD NO SURPRISES AND APPEARED PROMISE BUSINESSLIKE APPROACH TO ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS. NEXT SESSION JUNE 2. END SUMMARY

2. AS FORECAST REFTELS, SUPERIOR COURT TRIAL BEFORE THREE-JUDGE PANEL OPENED JUNE 1 IN COURT ROOM OF HIGH COURT OF APPEALS (PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY HALL UTILIZED FOR MAGISTERIAL INQUIRZ IS NOW HOSTING PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SESSION). SESSION BEGAN WITH READING OF CHARGES BY CHIEF JUDGE ABDULLA ABU AGLA. AFTER EACH CHARGE CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL MIRGHANI EL NASRI STOOD AND PLEADED DEFENDANTS NOT GUILTY. NEXT, IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM CHIEF PROSECUTOR ABDEL MONEIM MUSTAFA, NASRI GAVE GENERAL LINE DEFENSE WOULD TAKE.

3. NASRI STATED DEFENDENTS REPRESENTED PALESTINE REVOLUTION WHICH LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE (SIC) OF ALL PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THIS HAD BEEN RECOGNIZED BY ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN WHICH SUDAN PARTICIPATED AND
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SUDAN HAD SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZED PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION. NASRI

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CLAIMED
PALESTINE IN STATE OF WAR WITH ISRAEL AND
ISRAEL'S SUPPORTEHS AND HE THEREFORE ASKED THAT LAW OF WAR BE
APPLIED.

4. ABDEL MONEIM
MUSTAFA RESPONDED TO EFFECT THAT SUDAN DOES RECOGNIZE
PALESTINE REVOLUTION AND SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN CAUSE, BUT A CRIME
HAD BEEN COMMITED IN SUDAN AND HAD TO BE PUNISHED UNDER SUDANESE LAW.
HE OBSERVED THAT, IF A FRIEND COMMITS MISTAKE, IT IS BETTER TO SHOW
HIM,
NOT TO SHUT ONE'S EYES. HE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT SUDAN REQUIRED PRO-
TECT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND THEIR PERSONNEL IN SUDAN.

5. PROSECUTION THEN PRESENTED FIRST WITNESS, POLICE SUPERINTENDENT
ABBAS MEDANI, WHO WAS CHIEF INVESTIGATOR ON CASE AND WHO WENT
THROUGH CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS STARTING WITH ARRIVAL TERRORISTS
IN KHARTOUM THROUGH MEDICAL FINDINGS AFTER MURDERS. HE ALSO PRE-
SENTED EXHIBITS--GUNS, ETC. AFTER BRIEF RECESS, MEDANI STARTED
READ WHAT HE CALLED STATEMENT OF FIRST DEFENDANT, RIDZIK AL-QAS.
AFTER HE BEGAN, RIDZIK OBJECTED THAT IT NOT HIS STATEMENT.
ABDEL MONEIM MUSTAFA THEN CLARIFIED POINT BY SAYING IT WAS SUMMARY OF
STATEMENT. NASRI OBJECTED SAYING NO NEED FOR SUMMARY, IT BETTER HEAR
FULL STATEMENTS. RIDZIK ALSO STATED THAT HE STOOD BY FULL STATEMENT,
BUT SUMMARY WAS NOT IN HIS WORDS. CHIEF JUDGE, PROSECUTOR AND
DEFENSE
THEN AGREED THAT FULL TAPES OF STATEMENTS SHOULD BE HEARD, BEGINNING
AT 9:00A.M. SUNDAY JUNE 2. SESSION THEN ADJOURNED.

6. ATMOSPHERE. COURT ROOM IS SMALL AND ONLY TEN PALESTINIAN
STUDENTS PERMITTED TO ENTER. DEFENDANTS ENTERED WITH USUAL SHOUTS
AND SLOGANS TO WHICH STUDENTS RESPONDED, BUT THIS OCCURRED PRIOR
APPEARANCE JUDGES AND THERE WERE NO DISTURBANCES DURING COURSE OF
SESSION. ENTRY TO ROOM CONTROLLED, WITH PASSES REQUIRED AND ALL
THOSE PERMITTED IN SUBJECT TO SEARCH. SOME FIFTEEN POLICEMEN IN
COURTROOM
AND OTHERS IN CORRIDORS AND IN GROUNDS OF COURT BUILDING
OUTSIDE. NO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WERE PRESENT. OTHER THAN STUDENTS,
THERE WERE SOME TWENTY-FIVE SPECTATORS NONE OF WHOM APPEARED
PARTICULARLY BE SUPPORTERS OF TERRORISTS. INTERESTINGLY, PLO REP
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ABU KHEIR NOT PRESENT.

7. COMMENT: TRIAL IS FINALLY UNDERWAY AND, JUDGING BY FIRST DAY,
IT SHOULD MOVE ALONG SMARTLY. CHIEF JUDGE ADOPTED NO-NONSENSE DE-
MEANOR AND ATTITUDE ON PART OF ALL PARTIES APPEARED TO BE ONE OF LETS
GET ON WITH BUSINESS AT HAND. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PREDICTION TO
AMBASSADOR (KHARTOUM 892) THAT ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS BE OVER IN
10 DAYS MAY PROVE CLOSE TO MARK.

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8. IN ORDER AVOID ANY POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT HERE, SUGGEST DEPT
LIMIT
ANSWERS TO ANY PRESS QUESTIONS SIMPLY TO CONFIRMING TRIAL UNDER WAY
AND USG REMAINS CONFIDENT EFFECTIVENESS SUDANESE JUSTICE.
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